

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday June 21, 2016
Maricopa Association of Governments; Saguaro Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*ADOT: Jaclyn Birley for Mike Normand
Avondale: Kristen Taylor, Vice Chair
#Buckeye: Andrea Marquez
Chandler: Ann Marie Riley for RJ Zeder
El Mirage: Jose Macias
*Gila River Indian Community, Vacant
#Gilbert: Leslie Bubke for Kristin Myers
Glendale: Kevin Link for Debbie Albert
#Goodyear: Christine McMurdy
#Maricopa: Kazi Haque for David Maestas
Maricopa County DOT: Reed Kempton
Mesa: Jodi Sorrell

*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp
Peoria: Rhonda Humbles for Stuart Kent
Phoenix: Wendy Miller for Maria Hyatt,
Chair
#Queen Creek: Mohamed Youssef
Scottsdale: Gregory P. Davies for
Madeline Clemann
Surprise: Martin Lucero
#Tempe: Robert Yabes
*Tolleson: Vacant
Valley Metro: Carol Ketcherside for
Wulf Grote
#Youngtown: Grant Anderson

* Members neither present nor represented
by proxy.

Participated (or attended) by teleconference
+ Participated (or attended) by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Audra Koester Thomas, MAG
Marc Pearsall, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Ted Brown, MAG
Quinn Castro, MAG

Jason Crampton, Chandler
Randy Overmyer, CivTech
Matthew Taunton, HDR
Nicole Dyer, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting
Michael Nash, Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Kristen Taylor. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that several members were joining the meeting by teleconference: Andrea Marquez of Buckeye, Leslie Bubke of Gilbert, Christine McMurdy of Goodyear, Kazi Haque of Maricopa, Mohamed Youssef of Queen Creek, Robert Yabes of Tempe, and Grant Anderson of Youngtown. She asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft May 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Taylor inquired if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft May 17, 2016 Minutes. Hearing no comments, she called for a motion to approve the Draft May 17, 2016 Minutes. Gregory Davies of Scottsdale moved to approve the motion, Jose Macias of El Mirage seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Taylor then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Taylor stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Planning Report

Vice Chair Taylor introduced the MAG Transit Planning Project Manager, Audra Koester Thomas. Ms. Koester Thomas then proceeded to brief the Committee with the Transit Planning Report. She welcomed new member Ms. Rhonda Humbles of the City of Peoria. She then explained that the results of the new TIGER program had recently been announced by the FTA. The \$9.3 billion program had received 585 applications for 2016, over eighteen times more than the \$500 million that would be awarded. Now in its eighth year, the TIGER program had continued to attract overwhelming demand from communities of all sizes, with 337 applications coming from urban areas and 248 from rural communities.

She then congratulated Valley Metro in their successful hosting the 2016 APTA Rail Conference, underway at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix Hotel in downtown Phoenix, AZ. She continued by noting training opportunities: the TSI's Transit Safety/Safety Management Systems meeting would take place in Phoenix, AZ on June 22-24, 2016. She stated that the MAG 2017 Regional Transit Framework Study (RTFS) Update – RFP would be released on June 21, with the MAG Regional Commuter Rail System Study – RFP to follow in July. She concluded her report.

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Koester Thomas and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. Peoria Park-and-Ride Update

Vice Chair Taylor introduced Matthew Taunton of Valley Metro to present the item on behalf of Abhishek Dayal. The item was the Peoria Transit Center and Park-n-Ride Site Assessment, in which Valley Metro and the City of Peoria conducted a transit study to evaluate options for a park-and-ride and transit center in Old Town Peoria. Vice Chair Taylor noted that while the item was for information and discussion, it would need to return to Transit Committee in August for action.

Mr. Taunton explained that the study evaluated short-, mid-, and long-term transit needs for Peoria and recommended a phased park-and-ride option at Grand Ave / Peoria Ave / 83rd Ave. The study also recommended deferring the completion of the transit center until future demand is warranted. As a result, the FY2016-21 TIP would need to be updated. He noted that the study developed and evaluated park-and-ride (P&R) and transit center alternatives in Old Town (Grand Ave / Peoria Ave / 83rd Ave area). The new Peoria P&R would be served by: Route 106 (Peoria Ave), Route 83 (83rd Ave) which was scheduled to be extended from Camelback Rd to Arrowhead Towne Center in 2017, and the Grand Ave Limited. He added that other considerations included a future grade separation (COMPASS project) of Grand Ave between Peoria Ave and 83rd Ave and potential MAG commuter rail options on the BNSF Railway. He then explained the purposes of the concurrent Grand Avenue Transit Corridor Study. He advised that the study would provide a tool for gauging the demand/needs of current and future transit services within the corridor.

He then reviewed a slide showing transit services and facilities over the short, mid and long term; with the recommended transit center site at the conflux Grand Ave, Peoria Ave and 83rd Ave. Conceptual site option (Phase 1) recommended a regional park-and-ride (P&R) at Grand Ave / Peoria Ave with 50-100 parking spaces, shade canopies, as well as the acquisition of three parcels for future P&R expansion. The recommendation also included the deferral of the transit center until warranted by demand. He further explained that the FFY2016-21 TIP included two transit facilities in Peoria: a regional park-and-ride, and a transit center (4-bay), noting that the City of Peoria requested the following changes: advance the regional park-and-ride (using a phased approach), while requesting to defer the transit center until a future date.

He then reviewed the budget for the Peoria P&R (Phase 1). The TIP with current apportionment and proposed apportionment featured: design - \$376,407-\$386,400; right-of-way - \$2,138,675-\$3,991,855; construction - \$3,914,402-\$1,214,400; for a totals of \$6,429,484 and \$5,592,655. The schedule for the Peoria P&R (Phase 1) was: park-and-ride site selection - July 2016; environmental documentation (CE) / preliminary design (15%) - December 2016; final Design - December 2017; right-of-way acquisition - December 2017; construction - December 2018; and the project opening - spring 2019.

Mr. Taunton then detailed the proposed schedule changes to the TIP. The current apportionment year design for the regional park-and-ride - 2016; Right-of-way for the regional park-and-ride - 2016; Construction of the regional park-and-ride (Phase I) - 2017; Construction of regional park-and-ride (Phase II) - 2022. Design regional transit center (4-bay) - now 2021; land acquisition for regional transit center (4-bay) - now 2022; construction of regional transit center (4-bay) - now 2023. He then completed his presentation.

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Taunton and inquired if there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. FY 2016 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation Program Recommendation for the Phoenix/Mesa Urbanized Area

Vice Chair Taylor invited DeDe Gaisthea of MAG to present the item. Ms. Gaisthea explained that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation Program funding, for capital assistance awards. She elaborated by saying that the award program was available to agencies and public bodies that provide transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. She noted that MAG prepares the Section 5310 priority listing of applications for the Phoenix/Mesa Urbanized Area (UZA) which was approved through the MAG committee process, and forwards to the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department for submission to the FTA. Approximately \$3.1 million was estimated to be available for this year's Section 5310 Phoenix/Mesa UZA, projects.

She also explained that the priority listing took into consideration the federal requirement of 55-percent of the FTA apportionment for the Phoenix/Mesa UZA to be award to capital and mobility management eligible projects, with 35-percent for “New Freedom” (exceeding requirements of ADA) eligible projects (minus 10 percent administration fee). On May 4, 2016, the MAG Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Ad Hoc Committee developed a priority listing of Section 5310 Phoenix/Mesa UZA applicants to be forwarded for funding. Funding amounts were estimates contingent upon final vehicle procurement costs and eligibility of requested funds.

Ms. Gaisthea added that qualified candidates for the program were private nonprofit(PNP) organizations and public agencies where no viable PNPs were available as well as tribal governments with eligible populations, and agencies serving older adults (65+) and agencies serving people with disabilities. The program was a result of Fixing American’s Surface Transportation Act(FAST Act) which was signed on December 4, 2015 by President Obama. It authorized transit programs for five years (FY16-FY20), through September 30, 2020. She noted that it was the first long-term national transportation spending package in a decade and took full effect after Congress funded the legislation through its appropriations process.

The FAST Act guidelines were still pending, but continued under MAP-21. She further explained some of the changes in the program. It allowed states or localities that provide transit service to be direct recipients under the section. It also required FTA to develop a best practices guide for 5310 service providers and introduced a new Pilot Program for innovative coordinated access & mobility. It also required the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) to produce a strategic plan to address coordination across the federal government, and was provided funding of \$263 million (FY 2016) authorized from the Trust Fund. She then noted how the Chapter 53-Regional Section 5310 Program worked for the MAG Region; Within the Phoenix/Mesa Urbanized Area, the City of Phoenix was the designated recipient with application and programming process coordinated through Maricopa Association of Governments. For the Small Urban, Rural, and Avondale/Goodyear Areas; the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) was the Designated Recipient with the

application process also coordinated through ADOT.

Ms. Gaisthea further reviewed the urbanized area boundaries map, explaining the FY 2016 MAG Section 5310 Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area evaluation process. She stated that applications were due on March 21, 2016, with 34 applications received with a total request of \$4 million and only \$3.1 million in available funding. She added that MAG and the City of Phoenix conducted internal reviews of the Section 5310 Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area application process and the MAG Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation (EPDT) Ad Hoc Committee conducted applications evaluations. There were opportunities to submit questions to applicants for clarification and applicant interviews were conducted, which assisted in developing priority listings.

She further described that under priority listing considerations the FTA required 55 percent for traditional capital requests, with Mobility Manager requests recommended for top priority. Capital requests constituted up to a fourth for vehicles (replacement/expansion); and up to 45 percent for New Freedom eligible projects and program administration fees. Beyond ADA requirements she noted that there was a ten percent administration fee. She clarified that under the priority listing overview; the Section 5310 Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area had traditional Mobility Management projects with the following formula breakdowns: capital vehicles-projects at 55%; New Freedom eligible projects at 35%; administration at 10%; for a projected total outlay of \$3,175,817.00.

She then concluded her presentation noted that the item was for information and discussion only. Vice Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Gaisthea and inquired if there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Vice Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Gaisthea and Ms. Wendy Miller for their efforts on this work and for making things easier for the regional participants. Mr. Kevin Link asked when the item would proceed to Regional Council, and Ms. Gaisthea replied the very next working day. Mr. Davies inquired on the application specifics for denial of award. She noted that there were many strict criteria and thresholds for applicants to meet, such as DBE. Discussion followed.

Vice Chair Taylor again thanked Ms. Gaisthea and Wendy Miller and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. 2015 MAG Household Travel Survey

Vice Chair Taylor invited Edward Brown of MAG to present the item. He referred to the attachment and explained that MAG was conducting a Household Travel Survey to understand the travel behavior of residents in Maricopa, Pinal, and portions of Yavapai and Gila counties. Residents who chose to participate would be asked to provide details of the travel patterns of those living in the household. He noted the survey was an important component in the regional transportation planning process and that the information from the survey was used to understand commute patterns and aspects of travel behavior in the region, which helps transportation planners determine where new roads or improvements may be needed in the future. The last travel survey was conducted in 2008, so an update was required to provide data on the travel choices, preferences, and needs of the public.

Mr. Brown further elaborated on the Household Travel Survey details. MAG was surveying 7,000 households regarding travel behavior, and that the Pilot Survey was successfully completed. Letters for the main survey would be sent to households through 2016 and participating households would be asked to record their travel and verify that it had been accurately captured. Participants may choose between a cell phone application or a GPS logger, or they may go to MAGtravelsurvey.org for more information. Some of the features included: real-time data collection; use of Smartphone apps & GPS loggers; automatic data transmission; multi-day validation ; ability to view/validate data within minutes; machine learning algorithms reduce respondent burden; engaging user interface; user-friendly prompting; map of traces and stops; and help-desk support. He then completed his presentation.

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Brown and inquired if there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Ms. Ketcherside inquired on which three areas were being over-sampled. Mr. Brown replied that the three demographics that were over-sampled were Hispanics, Auto-deficient households and transit-intense households. Mr. Davies inquired on the status of the commercial vehicle survey. Mr. Brown replied that the commercial vehicle survey was complete, but that staff was still working on it's sister survey, the establishment survey and both would be released concurrently in early 2017. Mr. Brown explained to Ms. Koester Thomas that the data will be used to inform the MAG Four-Step model, the Activity Based Model as well as other sub-models. Additional discussion followed.

Vice Chair Taylor again thanked Mr. Brown and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8 . Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Taylor asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues or topics that they would like added as future agenda items. Hearing no further comments, Vice Chair Taylor proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date

Vice Chair Taylor thanked those present and announced that the Tuesday July 19, 2016 meeting would be cancelled as there was no business to be heard. The next scheduled meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.